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Historical Sketch
of
St. Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilmington, N. C.



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AN
HISTORICAL SKETCH
//
OF
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CONGREGATION,
WILMINGTON, N. C.

BY
PASTOR W. A. SNYDER
ASSISTED BY
MR. G. J. SCHULTZ.

PUBLISHED BY
THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

PASTOR W. A. SNYDER.
L. HANSON, - - - JOHN HAAR,
W. NEISTLIE, - - - J. D. H. KLANDER.

St. Paul's

Evangelical Lutheran Church,

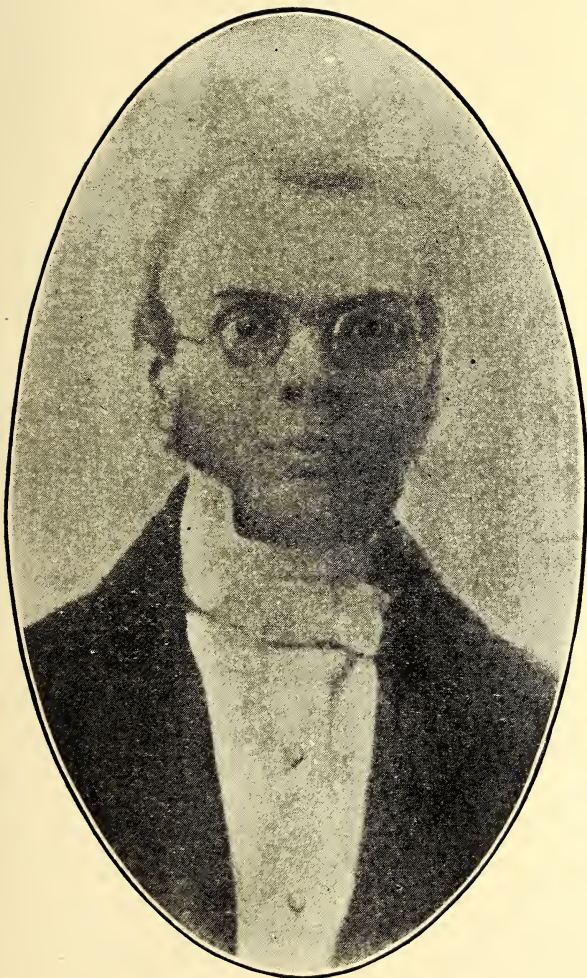
Wilmington, N. C.

Can you imagine yourself in Wilmington, kind reader, on the 31st day of May in the year 1858 ? Let us wend our way down South Front street to the old Presbyterian Church, where men and women are assembling to organize a Lutheran congregation, and quietly take a rear seat. As we look over the little company, we recognize many whose residence in the city has been of several years' duration, others who have but recently arrived. Evidently all of them long to possess a church in which the pure doctrine of God's Word may be proclaimed and now their longing is to approach realization. Two pastors of the North Carolina Synod, the Revs. J. Linn and G. D. Bernheim, arrived in the city a few days ago as a committee of visitation. They have visited the Lutherans and conducted a service for them and now, with the echoes of that service still ringing in their ears, they have come prepared to organize a Lutheran congregation.

Silence falls on the little assembly as the meeting is opened with a devout prayer in the name of Jesus. All feel the presence of the Lord and the certainty of His promise to guide and counsel His own in all their ways. The prayer ended, the purpose of the meeting is stated in clear and convincing manner. When at length the question is asked, "How many of you are now ready to organize and support a Lutheran congregation?" they rise one by one and place their names on record. Fifty-eight names are enrolled. How manifest the interest and enthusiasm of these fifty-eight! They decide to seek a suitable lot, to build a church thereon and to call a pastor as soon as possible.

Thus the first city missionary enterprise of the North Carolina Synod came into being and the foundation of the St. Paul's of to-day was laid. Fifty years have passed since that day and now as a result of those resolutions a large congregation assembles in a beautiful building. Let us retain and cherish the mental picture of that first meeting. Let us be grateful to God for the noble purpose He gave those men and women and for the manifold blessings He bestowed upon their labors. In order that the present generation may not be ignorant of the annals of St. Paul's, we venture upon a chronicle of its career.

To God alone be all glory !



The Rev. John H. Mengert.

THE FIRST PASTORATE.

Several months elapsed between the first and second congregational meeting. During these months the newly-organized congregation sought a spiritual shepherd with ability to preach both in the German and English languages. Aided by the President of the Synod's Missionary Society such a man was found in Evansville, Indiana. A call was extended to the Rev. John H. Mengert, who had labored with signal success both in the mission field of India and in the city of Baltimore, Md. His portrait depicts a man of refinement and piety, and withal a man of scholarly instincts, well adapted to the requirements of a city congregation. Accepting the call, Pastor Mengert and his family reached the city on the 23rd of December, 1858.

On Epiphany (Jan. 6th), 1859, we see the fifty-eight again assembled in the Presbyterian Church. Under the leadership of their pastor the congregation now assumes a more definite form by electing a Church Council, the FIRST council of the church. The names of these men are worthy of record :

Trustees - Messrs. J. G. Bauman, H. B. Eilers, H. VonGlahn, E. Schulken, C. H. Vollers, H. Vollers.

Elders—Messrs. N. Bremer, A. Adrian.

Deacons—Messrs. W. Knohl, H. Rehder.

Most of these men were connected with the work of St. Paul's for many years thereafter, their leadership and labors contributing largely under the blessing of God to the success of the congregation. Mr. H. Vollers, elected Secretary of the congregation at the first meeting, remained in that office until 1895. The minutes, recorded in German until 1873 and thereafter in English, display the most painstaking care and accuracy. The names of Messrs. H. B. Eilers, A. Adrian, N. Bremer and E. Schulken constantly recur in the annals of the church in connection with earnest service; the first named served for a long period as president of the council. Mr. H. Rehder is the only surviving member of the first council, having been spared to witness the fiftieth anniversary of the church's organization. During the half century just closed he has served his congregation in many offices with fidelity. Mr. W. Knohl was the first president and Mr. J. G. Bauman the first treasurer elected.

It was ascertained that the session house of St. James Protestant Episcopal congregation might be secured for Sunday services and the trustees were authorized to rent and place it into proper condition, so that the congregation might have a home until their own church could be erected. Eere long a suitable lot was offered for sale, situated on Market street,

near the corner of Sixth, running through to Princess street. This was purchased for \$3,000 from Mr. John A. Taylor, the owner contributing \$500 of the purchase money towards the erection of the church building. In 1860 another lot at the corner of Sixth street, running parallel to the first lot, was secured for \$2,700 and thus the entire property, now the pride of the congregation and the city came into our possession.

Under the supervision of the pastor, a committee framed a constitution for the congregation, which was adopted March 27th, 1859, the signatures of seventy-two persons being affixed thereto. We may therefore regard these seventy-two persons as the charter members of the congregation, and we record them as they appear in the minutes :

THE CHARTER MEMBERS.

Rev. John H. Mengert,	Johanne Kordlander,
Mrs. John H. Mengert,	C VonGlahn,
H. B. Eilers and wife,	J. VonGlahn,
C. Turner,	John M. Bremer,
Elise Turner,	Anne Hous,
Catharine Ebbender,	Louise Doscher,
Therese Klary,	Ferdinand Eyden,
Helene Vathauer,	Carsten H. Vollers,
Margarethe Schulken,	Mrs. Carsten H. Vollers,
Engelhard Schulken,	D. Cortjohann and wife,
Emilie Polvogt,	Henrich Markman,
C. Polvogt,	J. C. Litjen,
L. Vollers,	E. T. Suden and wife,

L. C. Turner,
H. Vollers and wife,
A. Henze,
B. Schulken,
H. Rathjen,
J. G. Bauman,
W. Ulrich,
K. H. Genzer,
N Bremer and wife,
C. Bonck,
A. Adrian,
H. Rehder,
W. Knohl and wife,
H. VonGlahn,
W. Runge,
Johanne Runge,
Doris Mugge,
H. Kordlander,

Friedrich Henning,
H. Eckel,
J. C. Koch,
C. Stemmerman and wife,
Hinrich Haar,
Heinrich Heissenbuttel,
A. W. Thies,
N. Gerken and wife,
H. G. Hashagen,
R. Turner,
John Von der Lieth,
Mrs. John Von der Lieth,
A. Mindel,
Caroline Wilkens,
B. Mehrstens,
G. Steenken and wife,
John Hespe and wife,
George Hespe.

God has spared the lives of eight of the seventy-two, six of them having remained members of St. Paul's to this day. The record book shows the following entries: First baptism, Helena Margarethe, daughter of Johann and Catharina Von der Lieth; first marriage, Gerhard F. Hespe and Ann C. Huns; first burial, Matthias Bremer (age 16 months).

In the record of Pastor Mengert we find the congregation consisting of the following persons during his pastorate (1858 to 1861):

Rev. J. H. Mengert,
Mrs. J. H. Mengert,
G. H. W. Runge,
Mrs. Johanne Runge,
E. Schulken,

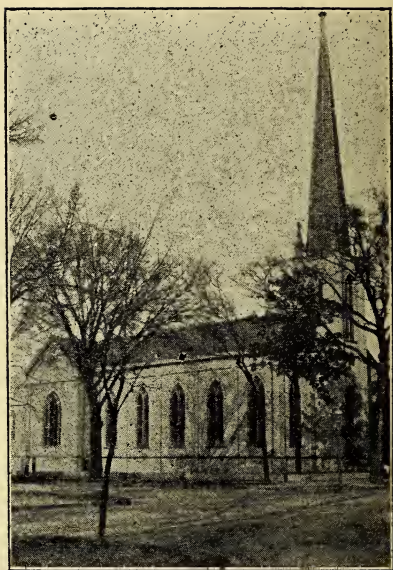
Joseph Stadtler,
Mrs. A. Stadtler,
John W. Strauss,
Mrs. Mary S. Strauss,
H. G. Hashagen,

Mrs. Margaret Schulken,	Mrs. Anna Hashagen,
C. Polvogt,	J. F. Rulfs,
Mrs. C. Polvogt,	Mrs. Catharine Rulfs,
G. F. Hespe,	Dietrich Cortjohann,
Mrs. Anna Hespe,	Mrs. Maria Cortjohann,
Miss Eliza Turner,	H. Kortlander,
H. Vollers,	Mrs. J. L. Kortlander,
Mrs. Eliza Vollers,	E. T. Suden,
Dietrich Hackemann,	Mrs. E. T. Suden,
Henry Ohlandt,	C. Stemmermann,
N. Bremer,	Mrs. A. M. Stemmermann,
Mrs. Helena Bremer,	Alex. Holthusen,
R. Turner,	C. Cornehlson,
Mrs. Caroline Turner,	Mrs. A. Cornehlson,
Miss Emily Polvogt,	H. Rathjen,
Charles Bonck,	August Gunther,
L. Vollers,	Mrs. Rebecca Gunther,
W. Ulrich,	N. Gerken,
August Mindel,	Mrs. Anna Gerken,
H. VonGlahn,	Henry Matthias,
H. B. Eilers,	John Bremer,
Mrs. M. D. Eilers,	Mrs. C. R. Bremer,
Miss Doris Mugge,	Mrs. Louisa Doscher,
Miss Caroline Wilkens,	John Von der Lieth,
Miss Ann Lues,	Mrs. C. Von der Lieth,
Miss Elizabeth Hashagen,	George Steenken,
John M. Bremer,	Mrs. A. L. Steenken,
Charles Schulken,	Henry Haar,
John C. Koch,	Mrs. Eleanor Dommler,
Henry Plein,	Johann Apel,
Anna Plein,	Mrs. Catharine Apel,
H. Eckel,	R. F. Eyden,
A. Adrian,	Edward Peschau,
F. Henning,	H. Hensen,
A. W. Thies,	F. Peppinghaus,
F. W. Knohl,	Mrs. Peppinghaus,
Mrs. Mary Knohl,	Miss Theresa Clary,

C. H. Mohr,	Henry Westermann,
August Lessmann,	Miss Helena Vathauer,
Mrs. Mary Lessmann,	Henry Hutner,
L. C. Turner,	Mrs. Barbara Hutner,
H. Rehder,	George Steininger,
C. VonGlahn,	J. H. Cornehlson,
John G. Bauman,	F. N. Mohr,
Charles H. Ganzer,	Gerig Paul,
August Dummelandt.	

On the 30th of April, 1869, the congregation was admitted to the North Carolina Synod, a connection thus being formed, which has remained unbroken to the present time. During Pastor Mengert's entire pastorate the Synod contributed to his support, the congregation receiving a total of \$1,200 from this source. We should be ungrateful if we failed to state in this connection, that a large sum of money was contributed by individuals both in the North and in the South to the church building. The names of the many kind donors are of course unrecorded at this time, but should this sketch fall into the hands of any such, let him be assured of the lasting gratitude of the congregation.

As early as June (1859) Mr. H. Vollers submitted a plan for a Gothic church, 65 by 40 feet, with a vestry room in the rear, 30 by 16 feet, the estimated cost of the proposed structure being from five to six thousand dollars. This plan was adopted and a building committee, composed of Messrs. E. Schulken, H. B.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Eilers, E. VonGlahn, W. Knohl and H. Vol-
lers, was instructed to proceed at once with
the erection of the church. So vigorously did
this committee press the work, that on the 6th
of September the corner-stone was laid. Let
us imagine ourselves present upon that occa-
sion. Pastor Mengert speaks in joyful tones
of the doctrine, the strength and the work of
the Lutheran Church to a large assembly and,
at the conclusion of his inspiring sermon, he
solemnly lays the stone according to the ritual
of our Church. The ceremony is concluded
and the little flock gathers about the pastor,
each heart full of the joy and happiness this
first concrete form of their determination has
created. Can we fully imagine their feelings
or thoroughly appreciate all that this service
has meant to them? Not unless we ourselves
have passed through a similar experience.

The brick walls now rise, the tower and the
roof are added and before 1860 comes to a
close the exterior of St. Paul's is finished.
The congregation had invited the Synod to
meet in Wilmington during the coming Spring,
in order that its members might be present at
the consecration services. Until that joyous
time should arrive, the congregation contented
itself in the "session room" at the rear of the
church, which was finished, the scene of so
many meetings and labors during the years to
come.

THE WAR.

A few weeks before the meeting of the Synod the first battle of the Civil War was fought. The terrible conflict between the North and the South threw everything into confusion. Church enterprises, especially new ones, languished. The Synod indeed convened in Wilmington, but not in the new church. Some members of the congregation enlisted in the army; some fell in battle, some became victims to the yellow fever epidemic. The tale of suffering need not be retold. Sufficient to say, that the congregation's hopes slowly died. Owing to this sad condition of affairs and its consequent effects, Pastor Mergert, was forced to resign, his resignation taking effect May 2nd, 1862. His pastorate had lasted three years and four months. So uncertain did the future seem that the little remnant of Lutherans entertained no thought of calling a successor. There followed a vacancy of seven years and eight months. During this long dark period the Sunday School proved to be the one bright ray of hope left. With comparatively few interims it met in the session room each Sunday, under the leadership of Mr. H. B. Eilers, and kept the little band of adults and children together, as best it could, until a brighter day might dawn. All honor to the Sunday School ! It has performed

a noble part in the upbuilding of our congregation.

Early in 1865 Fort Fisher fell and the Federal troops were soon in possession of Wilmington. The interior of St. Paul's seemed to offer them not only desirable, but suitable quarters. At their hands the building and everything in and about it suffered. Fencing, joists, pews and even the reading desk were used for fuel, while the beautiful tower, blackened by the smoke of their fires, soon resembled a huge chimney. Without any regard for the sacred character of the building, they placed all sorts of inscriptions on the plastered walls. When these troops finally left the city and the Lutherans assembled to see how their building had fared, a sad sight greeted their eyes. Even the vestry room could not be used and the Sunday School sessions were suspended. The last flicker of hope died, for it seemed impossible that they would ever be able to replace their losses and to complete the church. Many were in favor of abandoning the whole enterprise at once.

THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY.

A rumor of this sad state of affairs reached the Rev. G. D. Bernheim, then residing in Charlotte. Fearful for the extinction of the congregation he hastens to Wilmington and gathers the remnant left. They meet and as

he addresses them for the second time in their history upon the subject of organization, his influence sways them onward toward hope. They go forth from the meetings with faith in God and in the ultimate success of their undertaking. Impoverished by the war, without any available funds in their treasury, even without the services of a pastor, they undertake the completion of the building. What words can fittingly express our admiration of their zeal? These men, with the results of war all about them, in the darkest hour of a great trial, their cause having fallen, yet resolutely taking up the work of their church, must serve as an inspiration to every generation of St. Paul's. By the month of July, 1869, they had completed the building and were now in possession of a beautiful church, richly furnished and comparing favorably with the finest churches of the city. Even a bell hung in the tower, a gift of the firm of Adrian & Vollers, mutely awaiting the day when it should call men and women to the consecration of the church.

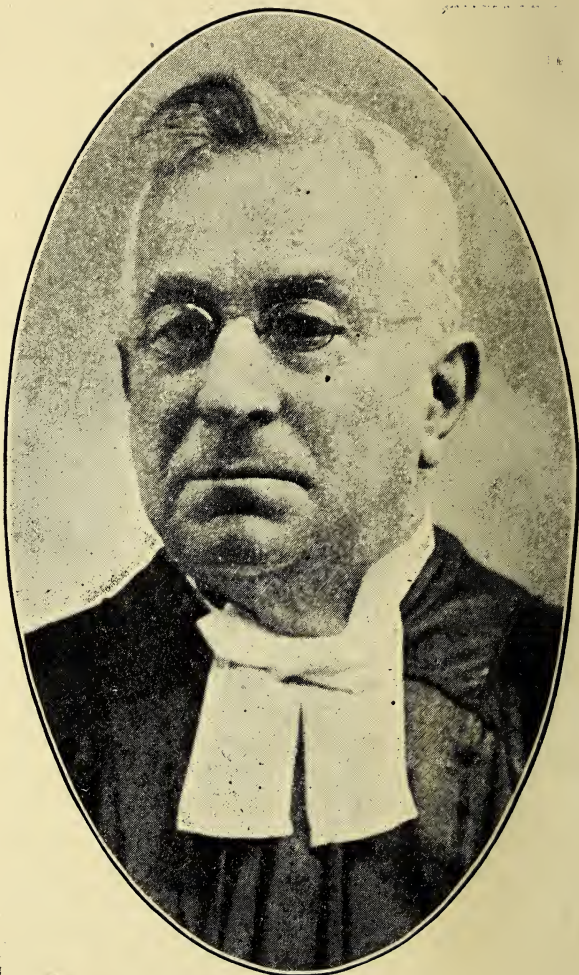
THE CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH.

On Sunday, August 22nd, 1869, after a decade of waiting, the sorely tried Lutherans are permitted to assemble for the consecration of their church. They had invited him whose influence and zeal had made the event possi-

ble, the Rev. G. D. Bernheim, and also the Revs. C. H. Bernheim, L. Muller and W. A. Julian. The pastors and the council surround the altar and the beautiful words of consecration are spoken by Pastor Bernheim. What thoughts of gratitude now fill the hearts of the faithful few; yet mingled with these thoughts are the sad memories of the dead. At the morning service Pastor Bernheim preaches on Luke 10:23-24; at the afternoon service Pastor Miller preaches on Ps. 26:6-8; and at the night service Pastor Julian preaches on Canticles 6:10. It is stated on the morning service that there are forty-seven millions of Lutherans in the world To-day we can speak of seventy-five millions, a glorious increase !

THE SECOND PASTORATE.

The greatest need at this time was a pastor. Three days after the consecration service the congregation decided to call the Rev. G. D. Bernheim, who had thrice come to their aid and who had always led them to success. The call was accepted, Pastor Bernheim arriving with his family in the city December 29th, 1869. He found many labors awaiting him. During the long pastoral vacancy many children and adults had drifted into other churches. A goodly number of Lutherans had come to Wilmington after the war and these needed to



The Rev. G. D. Bernheim.

be gathered. Spiritual interest needed awakening. The finances of the congregation demanded both prayerful and careful thought. Pastor Bernheim prosecuted his work with such vigor, however, that as a result both the congregation and the Sunday School grew, the latter becoming sixty strong. Upon the resignation of Mr. H. B. Eilers from the superintendency of the school, Mr. H. G. Hashagen was elected his successor. The pastor organized and instructed a class of catechumens, fourteen of whom were confirmed on Good Friday, April 19th, 1870.

THE FIRST CONFIRMATION CLASS.

William H. Gerken,
Catherine M. Gerken,
Charles J. Gerken,
Joanna Lemmerman,
Lisette C. Bernheim,
William H. Strauss,
Caroline T. Strauss,

Mrs. Caroline Stolter,
John H. Tienken,
Margaret C. Tienken,
Anna Von der Lieth,
Anna S. Lessman,
Anna S. Heins,
Margaret E. Heins.

Pastor Bernheim was installed on the fifth of June by the Revs. L. A. Bickle and D. I. Dreher. During the same year it was resolved that the Lord's Supper should be administered four times annually. The attendance at public services was good and the membership of the congregation increased about forty per cent.

The year 1870 was marked by two important events, the erection of the parsonage and

the organization of the Christian Association. The congregation has never believed in half measures and this spirit manifests itself in the large and comfortable parsonage situated on its property. At the time of its erection it compared favorably with the finest and largest homes of the city. The pastor, together with Messrs. H. Haar and B. H. J. Ahrens, were the committee on construction. The enterprise was started as a venture and ended in success. The cost of construction was \$4,757. The congregation of to-day is most fortunate in its material possessions; the forethought of the fathers, who so wisely provided, even to the extent of planting the trees, which beautify our property, was remarkable.

THE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

On October 23rd (1870) an invitation was extended to the male members of the congregation to organize a "Christian Association," whose purpose should be that of enlisting the energies of men in the Kingdom of God. This organization, which came into being on the 29th of October, has been of benefit not only to its members, but to hosts of others. Quietly fulfilling its purpose it has played an important part in the history of the church. Its beneficence has gone forth to aid men in distress and destitution, in bodily and spiritual sickness.

Easter Monday of this same year having been set apart by the German Emperor as a day of thanksgiving for the victory of the German army over the French, the Germans across the sea celebrated the day. In Wilmington a large assembly met at St. Paul's, where Pastor Bernheim, the chosen orator, conducted services and delivered an address suitable to the occasion.

FRUITFUL YEARS.

When we reach a period of history in which there are no stirring events to record, we have come as a rule to a period of inner development. Such a period now begins in the history of St. Paul's. During the years of 1872 and 1873 the congregation grew numerically and in inward strength. The foundation was laid for that conservative type of Lutheranism which has prevailed to the present. The financial burden was becoming lighter and it seemed as if the congregation would soon be free of debt; but in the Fall of 1873 a financial panic began to sweep over the land and its effects were keenly felt in this city early in 1874. Some of St. Paul's members left the city and a succession of sudden deaths, in no wise connected with the panic, filled all hearts with dismay. Again in a somewhat gloomy period the Synod met in Wilmington, this time, however, convening in the church. The homes of

our people were thrown open wide in generous hospitality and so impressed was a visitor from Pennsylvania, the Rev. J. Fry, that he wrote of the congregation in glowing terms upon his return to the North. The effects of the panic soon passed and prosperity again reigned. An attempt was made by Pastor Bernheim to conduct a Wednesday night service, and, although he continued this effort for three years, it was at no time well attended. Not so, however, the daily services during Holy Week which were introduced at this time. They proved highly successful in every respect. In 1876 Pastor Bernheim opened a school in several rooms of the parsonage, which at the outstart was attended by eighty pupils. This school proved to be the cornerstone of an elaborate parochial school system, which obtained at a later period. During the same year Mr. W. H. Strauss was elected superintendent of the Sunday School in the place of Mr. Hashagen, who had resigned. We cannot pass by this period without mentioning a name, that of Mr. John Baker, who became sexton of the church, and whose faithful labors in this position for thirty-three years, are so closely linked with the history of his and our congregation.

The cares of pastor and teacher proved to be too heavy for Pastor Bernheim. The congregation accordingly granted him an indefi-

nite leave of absence to visit Europe, with the hope that his health might be restored. During this interval the ministerial office was supplied by the Rev. F. P. Cook, now of Jewett, Ohio, whose services are still remembered by the older members of the congregation.

THE DORCAS SOCIETY.

The second society of St. Paul's was organized during the Summer of 1877. It was a ladies' society, whose purpose as stated was "(1) to liquidate the debt of the church, and also to render any other assistance which the wants of the church may demand; (2) to provide as far as our means will allow, for any sickness or destitution among the ladies or children of our congregation." Its first officers were : President, Mrs. G. D. Bernheim; vice-president, Mrs. H. B. Eilers; secretary, Miss Lissette Bernheim; treasurer, Mrs. H. Vollers. To record the labors of this society would require a separate booklet. As we pass through our buildings and over our grounds, we see everywhere evidences of its kindness and activity. Its history, like the life of Dorcas, is full of good works. Indeed, the congregation owes a lasting debt of gratitude to the women of the church. Their names may not appear so frequently in its records as those of the men, but their labors and deeds,

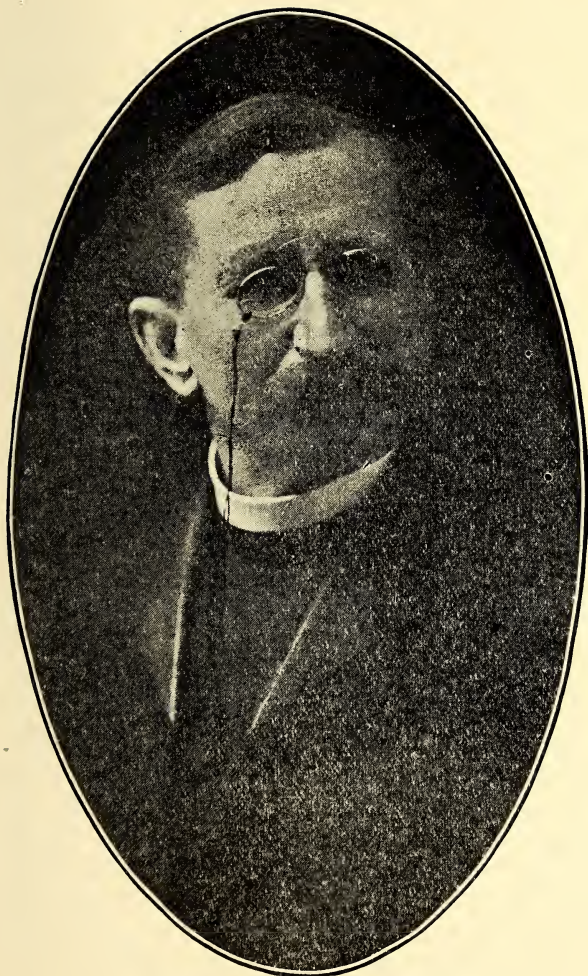
their faith and fidelity shine just as brightly.

Even in these early days it was affirmed that the rising generation could not understand German well enough to be able to participate in the morning services. Accordingly for several years German services were held only on the first Sunday of each month, but this measure proved to be too severe. As the years passed by the language question came up time and again in the congregational meetings and many theories for its solution were proposed and tried. It is pleasant to state that it has never created great strife or division, as has been the case in some congregations similarly situated.

When Pastor Bernheim returned from Europe he attacked his work with stronger vigor, but again the strain proved to be too great. He resigned, but the resignation was not accepted, the congregation voting him \$200 annually for the services of a teacher. He remained with the congregation until 1881, his second resignation going into effect on the last Sunday of that year. Thus a fruitful pastorate of twelve years' duration came to its close.

THE THIRD PASTORATE.

Before Pastor Bernheim's resignation had taken effect the congregation called the Rev. F. W. E. Peschau, of Nashville, Tenn., to suc-



The Rev. F. W. E. Peschau, D. D.

ceed him, In this manner a long vacancy in the pastorate was avoided. Pastor Peschau accepted the call and arrived in the city March 3rd, 1882. On the following day he preached his introductory sermon and later was installed.

Just before this pastor's arrival an event of importance, as far as the finances of the congregation were concerned, had occurred, viz : That the Christian Association, upon its dissolution had bestowed upon the congregation its accumulated money (between \$1,000 and \$1,100) and the Dorcas Society contributing a sum of money at the same time, the congregation for the first time in its history was practically free from debt.

Pastor Peschau's pastorate began and continued under auspicious circumstances. His activity soon brought rich returns. The need of a separate building for the Sunday School, a parochial school and the church societies began to be felt. This need was supplied, when in 1883-1884 "Luther Memorial Building" was erected at the corner of Sixth and Princess streets at a cost of \$4,000, Messrs. J. F. Stolter, L. Vollers and F. W. Ortmann acting as a building committee. In 1882 the pastor gathered the younger members of the congregation into a "Young Peoples' Society," which flourished about eight years. It did much to interest the young in their church and culti-

vated a spirit of kindness and unity among them, which is felt to this day. Many of the men and women, now so active in our work, here received their first impulse toward congregational activity. Its first officers were: President, H. F. Ottent vice-president, C. E. Hall; recording secretary, C. W. Polvogt; corresponding secretary, Miss Kate Ganzer; treasurer, Miss Lizzie Grotgen; librarian, E. Schulken. A "Jugend Verein," organized to accomplish the same purpose among those preferring German, came into existence later (1892) and prospered for two years, the destruction of Luther Memorial Building terminating its life. The first officers were: President, J. H. Kuck; vice-president, J. W. H. Fuchs; secretary, F. Richter; treasurer, Miss M. Strunck. In 1886 a constitution for the Sunday School was framed and with the congregation's approval adopted. In 1887 the Karrer-Schulken Fund was established by Miss Emma Karrer and Mrs. E. Schulken in memory of Mrs. K. D. Karrer and Mr. E. Schulken, Sr., the interest of the money placed therein being designated for the support of the pastorate. This fund has received additional bequests since its establishment and is open to all who desire to leave the congregation some annual income.

In 1887 the pipe organ was purchased at a cost of \$1,800 and consecrated. We may im-

agine what joy and pleasure this instrument produced, for up to this time the congregation had contented itself with a reed organ. The acquisition of the instrument marked a new epoch in the musical development of the congregational services. Prof. VanLaer was the first to officiate as its organist and, in this connection, we might mention some of those who have succeeded him, viz: Miss C. Chasten, Miss Eliza Adrian, Miss Margaret Peschau, Miss Annie Boesch and Miss C. Stolter.

During the Summer of 1888 the United Synod in the South met in our church and city, the sessions proving highly instructive and interesting to the members of the congregation. Entertainment was provided for this distinguished body in the well known manner indicated by the term "Southern hospitality." In April of this same year the Christian Association was reorganized under the following officers: President, H. L. Vollers; vice-president, J. D. H. Klander; recording secretary, J. H. Rehder; corresponding secretary, H. J. Dingelhœf; treasurer, G. W. Borle-mann.

THE MENGERT CIRCLE.

On October 2nd, 1889, the third congregational society was organized under the title, "Mengert Mission Circle," its purpose being

to create interest in the mission work of the church at large and to raise funds for its support. Children as well as adults were admitted to its membership. Its name, recalling the labors of the first pastor, fittingly commemorates his pastorate. Meeting without interruption to the present, this organization has contributed a great deal to the work of the Lutheran Church in the South and to the local work of the congregation. Although the word "mission" was dropped from its title at a later day, this in no wise indicated that its interest in the missionary work of the church decreased. The first organization was constituted as follows: President, Mrs. H. Rehder; vice-president, Mrs. H. A. Glameyer; secretary, Miss M. Strauss; treasurer, Miss A. Doscher.

During the same year the constitution of the church was revised, an undertaking which required meeting upon meeting of the congregation. Two years later an attempt was made to begin a Lutheran congregation among the colored people, two individuals having offered a handsome sum of money towards the support of a pastor for this work. It was found, however, that the project was impracticable. Not so, however, the work among the seamen begun by Pastor Peschau at this period. With untiring energy he cultivated ability to preach in Scandivian languages,

and as the harbor in that day was filled with sailing vessels, whose crews to a large extent were Scandinavians, he accomplished a great deal of good among them. For several years the congregation was intensely interested in work among the seamen, but as, with the advent of steamships, the number and size of the crews which touched here diminished, this field of usefulness also was narrowed. St. Paul's ever sought to take both a temporal and spiritual interest in all Lutherans coming to the city.

The tenth anniversary of Pastor Peschau's pastorate was celebrated in 1892, the church having been refrescoed, recarpeted and recushioned just before this event. In the souvenir booklet published upon that occasion several gifts are mentioned which we would recall : Baptismal font, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Wessell; lectern and altar, Mrs. F. W. Heyer and Mrs. H. Rehder; Bibles, Mrs. Wright and Messrs. C. and J. Schmidt; hymnal registers, Messrs. H. and L. Vollers; silver set, Mrs. Laura Doscher; robe for the pastor, Dorcas Society; plush mountings, Mrs. A. Smith; hymnal board, Mrs. H. Haar, Sr.; altar cloth, Mrs. E. Schulken.

ST. MATTHEW'S SUNDAY SCHOOL.

With the increase of the number of Lutherans in Wilmington, it was deemed advisable to

open a branch Sunday School in the northern part of the city. Pastor Peschau began this work April 15th, 1890, and with Mr. C. W. Polvogt as superintendent and an able corps of teachers, the work prospered to such an extent that there was even some talk of organizing a similar school in the southern part of Wilmington. In 1881 a lot was purchased on North Fourth street at a cost of \$1,100 and a chapel erected thereon, whose corner-stone was laid March 30th, 1891, by Pastor Peschau and the Rev. G. H. Cox, President of the Synod. This chapel, costing \$1,950, was occupied for the first time on the 17th of May. During the following year (March 14th, 1892) St. Matthew's was permitted to withdraw from the mother church, the latter waiving all claims, rights and titles thereto and wishing the young congregation Godspeed and blessing. The pastors who have served the new congregation since its organization are : The Rev. G. D. Bernheim, C. W. Kegley and G. S. Bearden.

Pastor Peschau tendered his resignation in 1892, the same going into effect on the last Sunday of February, 1893. During the eleven years of his pastorate the congregation had been strengthened and increased, its organization had become more fully matured and its missionary zeal cultivated. Freed to a great extent from the care of self-preservation, it



The Rev. K. Boldt, D. D.

possessed more time and opportunity to broaden its field of usefulness under his energetic leadership.

THE FOURTH PASTORATE.

During the ensuing pastoral vacancy of eight months, Pastor Bernheim supplied the pulpit. On the 15th of August, 1893, the Rev. K. Boldt, of Charleston, was called to the pastorate. Accepting the call, Pastor Boldt came to Wilmington and preached his introductory sermon November 19th, his installation occurring January 21st of the following year, the Revs. E. T. Horn, D. D., and G. D. Bernheim, D. D., officiating. Just before the arrival of Pastor Boldt, Mr. J. D. H. Klander had been elected superintendent of the Sunday School, in the place of Mr. Strauss, who after a term of sixteen years had resigned.

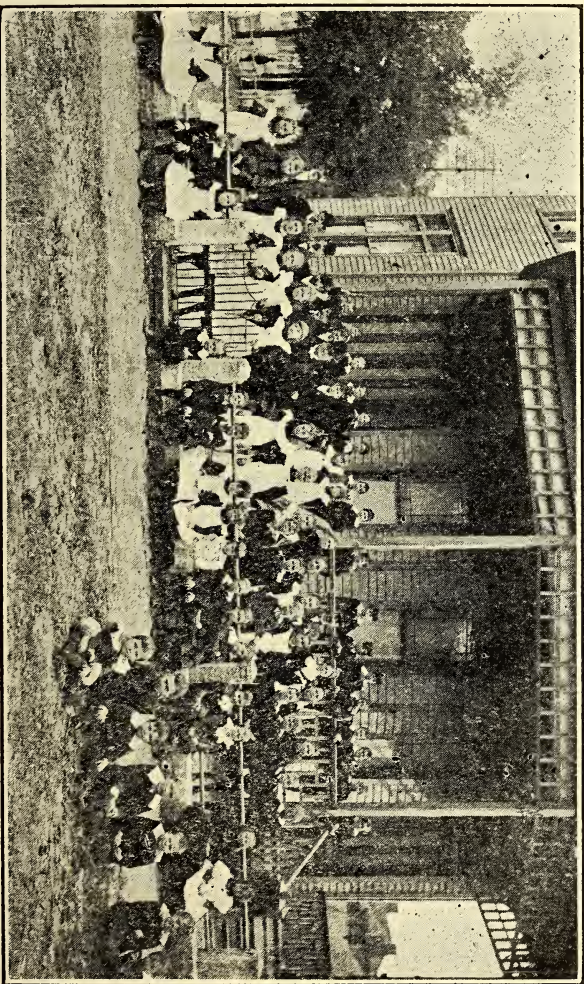
The first event of importance in this pastorate was the introduction of the "Common Service," a service prepared by a joint committee composed of members appointed by the various Lutheran bodies in this country and based on the best Lutheran liturgies of the Sixteenth century. Though adopted previously, the time for its introduction did not seem ripe until 1894, when it was used without causing any friction.

A FIRE.

On January 10th, 1894, Luther Memorial

Building was completely destroyed by fire, the flames originating in the apparatus left by some workmen on the roof during the noon recess. The parochial school, established in 1891, occupied part of the building at this time and was in such a flourishing condition that it was both the hope and pride of the congregation. Its home lay in ashes and its pupils and teachers gathered about the ruins, a mournful band. The members of the Jewish Synagogue immediately offered the school the use of their basement, but as the vestry room of the church and a room in the parsonage were available as a temporary home, there was no need of accepting the kind offer. Two weeks after the fire, the congregation with characteristic energy decided to erect a new and a larger building. A building committee consisting of Messrs. A. D. Wessell, A. Smith and F. E. Hashagen completed the new building, with the assistance of Mr. John C. Stout, its architect, before the close of the year. The laying of its corner stone and its consecration are still fresh in the minds of most of our members. Thus the large and commodious building we now possess, the meeting place of our schools and societies, was acquired, the cost thereof being \$5,124.

The new building completed, the parochial school flourished as never before. Much care and aid was bestowed by the members of the



The Parochial School.

congregation upon its establishment and continuance. Not only the church in general, but a host of individuals contributed large sums of money annually to its support. Many of the present members of the congregation served upon its board with zeal and fidelity. At one time as many as 100 scholars attended its sessions and its curriculum was so complete that its graduates were admitted from its portals into the colleges of the State. Despite all of the zeal and self-sacrifice of the congregation it had to be abandoned in 1902, because of the lack of support on the part of parents in sending children to it, the public schools of the city having by that time attained a high grade of efficiency.

A NEW SYSTEM OF FINANCES.

The current expenses of the congregation up to this time were met by pew rents, monthly dues and plate collections. This three-fold source of income gradually proved insufficient, considerable difficulty having been experienced for more than a decade in meeting the financial needs. "The Apportionment System" was now adopted after thoughtful discussion, a system under which each member, after consultation with a committee, paid a weekly sum of money to the church, according to his means, and the pews became free. This system proved to be remarkably success-

ful from the start, freeing the congregation from a host of trivial financial burdens. The first committee appointed, which carried this system into effect, consisted of Messrs. A. D. Wessell, M. G. Tiencken, A. Smith, J. H. Rehder and F. W. Orttmann. The constitution was revised to meet the requirements of this new system and the revised constitution was adopted by the congregation.

DEATH OF THE REV. B. H. W. RUNGE.

For several years the congregation had looked forward to the day when the first pastor should emerge from its ranks and go forth to labor for the Lord. The Christian Association and the congregation had taken a deep and helpful interest in his studies at Mount Airy Theological Seminary, Philadelphia. Mr. Runge's health failed, however, at the time of his graduation and, although ordained to the office of the ministry (June 2nd, 1895), he was never permitted to labor in the vocation which he so dearly loved, the Lord calling him to higher and more blessed labors on the 15th of June of the same year. His memory will ever be cherished in St. Paul's as a young man of deep piety and culture, the first pastor sent forth from our fold.

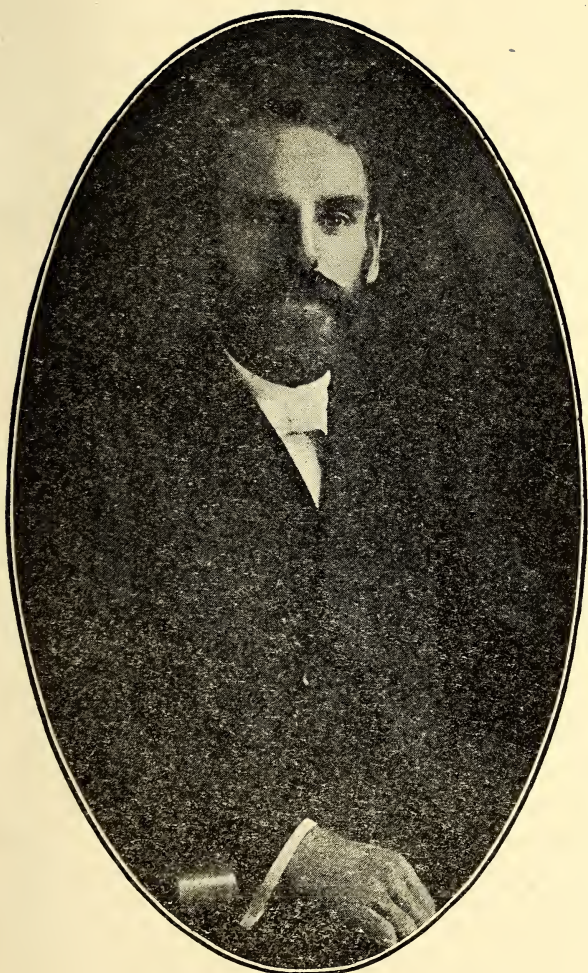
In 1896 Mr. John Haar was elected superintendent of the Sunday School, upon the resignation of Mr. J. D. H. Klander. the schools

of the congregation at that time being in a flourishing condition. The congregation as a whole was growing in doctrinal strength through Pastor Boldt's effective preaching and teaching, pastor and people having become bound together into close bonds of love. This happy relation was severed when Pastor Boldt received and accepted an urgent call to his former congregation at Charleston (September, 1897), his resignation going into effect December 17th, 1897. He had been the pastor of St. Paul's a little more than four years, yet had accomplished much during this brief period. Within a few years after Pastor Boldt's return to Charleston, he was summoned to his eternal reward, whither also his faithful helpmate followed him within a few years.

THE FIFTH PASTORATE.

Before Pastor Boldt's resignation had taken effect, the congregation had already called the Rev. A. G. Voigt, D. D., Professor of Theology at Newberry, S. C. Pastor Voigt accepting the call, took charge of the congregation June 1st, 1898, and was installed on the 19th of the same month by the Revs. G. D. Bernheim, and K. Boldt. The congregation once more was fortunate in obtaining a spiritual head in so brief a time.

The events of this pastorate are so recent



The Rev. A. G. Voigt, D. D.

that most of the readers of these lines can recount them much better than the writer. One of the most important acts of his ministry was a wise provision, which materially increased the beneficiary contributions of the church: It was decided to devote all plate offerings to the various missionary and educational causes of the United Synod. The Sunday School falling in line with this idea, began to set apart the offering for the first Sunday of each month to Home and Foreign Missions. Through this plan the congregation gradually began to be a more important factor in the work of the Lutheran Church in the South.

The present arrangement of having German services on the second and fourth Sunday mornings of each month was adopted and met with general approval. During the Fall of 1901 a Luther League was organized, which flourished for a time, taking the place of the "Young Peoples' Society" of a former pastorate. The fence, which surrounded the property of St. Paul's, was removed, a fine granite coping, costing almost \$1,000, was put into place by the Dorcas Society, and the church's indebtedness was reduced until less than \$1,000 remained. The congregation entered upon a period of peace and harmony, factions having disappeared and the various organizations and the congregation as a whole doing effective work. During this pastorate

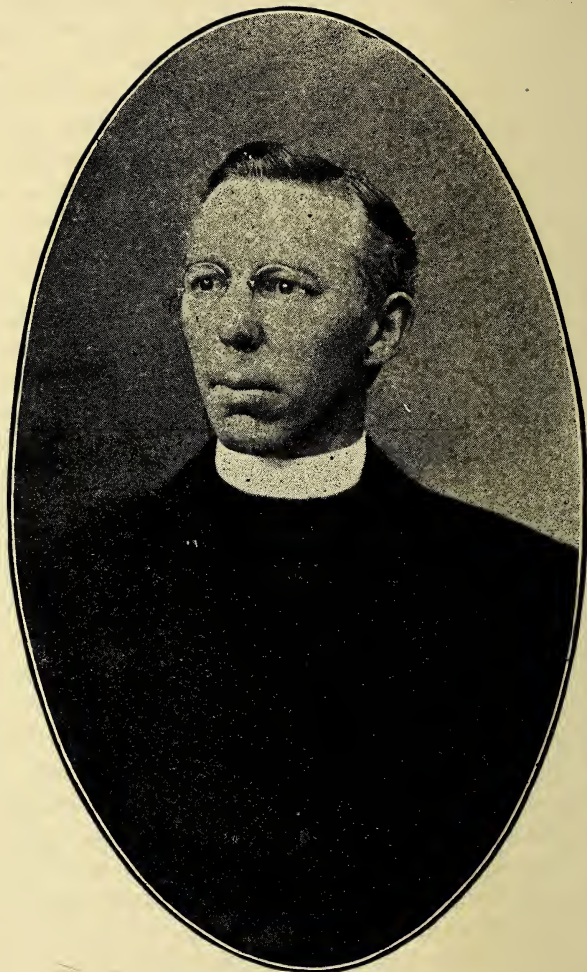
Mr. F. A. Bissinger was elected superintendent of the Sunday School to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Haar.

Pastor Voigt's pastorate, like Pastor Boldt's, was brief. In July, 1903, he was elected Dean of the Theological Seminary of the United Synod at Mount Pleasant, S. C., a position for which his pre-eminent gifts as a theologian fitted him in superlative degree. His resignation went into effect September 30th, 1903. During his pastorate of five years and four months the church had grown in breadth of vision. It had increased in liberality to the causes of the church at large and had begun to feel its responsibility in the work of the United Synod. Under Pastor Voigt's instructive preaching it had begun to think more of the great mission problems and the work of the Lutheran Church in the world.

THE SIXTH PASTORATE.

The present pastor, the Rev W. A. Snyder, was twice called by the congregation. Believing that the Lord wished him to come to Wilmington, after he had received the second call, he resigned the congregation he had organized in West Reading, Pa., and came to St. Paul's, assuming charge of the congregation March 1st, 1904. On the 13th of the same month he was installed by the Revs. G. D. Bernheim, D D , and C. W. Kegley.

It is his pleasure to state that during the



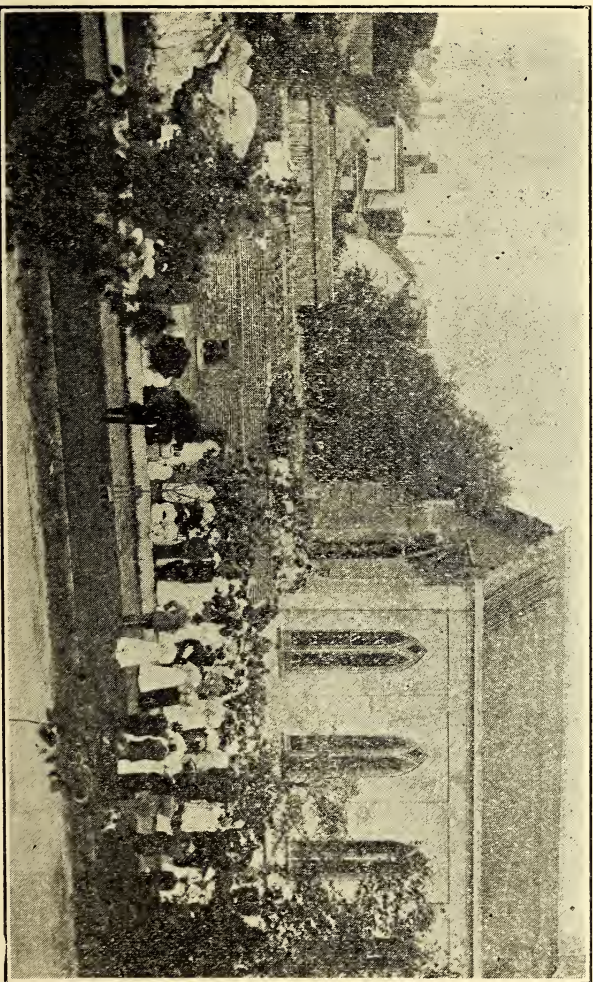
The Rev. W. A. Snyder.

four years of his pastorate the congregation has shown itself active in every department of its work. In 1905 the Sunday School was graded and in the following year a pleasant primary room was furnished. The whole interior of the rooms it occupied have been carpeted and frescoed. The ladies' societies and the Luther League have also fitted up handsome meeting rooms. The need of the school to-day is a larger auditorium. In 1906 Mr. Bissinger resigned the superintendency of the school and was succeeded by Mr. H. F. Otten. The school is in a most prosperous condition, having reached a high water mark in attendance and possessing an able corps of officers and teachers, who have been instructed in normal classes for the past two years. The various societies are increasing in size and efficiency. The pastor has instructed Saturday morning classes for the younger children of the church, which have proved very fruitful. The Luther League of this pastorate was organized by the catechetical class of 1905 and since the time of its organization has had a rapid growth. During the past four years 125 adult members have been added to the church, 74 of that number being by confirmation. The present membership of St. Paul's is 410 members in good standing. The pastor, like the former pastors, has had the aid and support of very efficient church coun-

cils. Indeed, every council in the history of St. Paul's has been a credit to the congregation and, although space forbids the mention of the names of the men who have served us in office, let them be assured that their labors have not been in vain. The present Elders, Messrs. L. Hanson and W. Niestlie, have served in their office side by side for sixteen years. During the first year of this pastorate the congregation had the pleasure of seeing the second pastor emerging from its ranks, the Rev. H. W. A. Hanson, who is laboring in the office of the ministry most successfully in Alleghany, Pa.

THE GREATER ST. PAUL'S.

In the congregational meeting of 1906 the pastor, referring to the fiftieth anniversary of St. Paul's, urged the congregation to commemorate the event by a suitable memorial. A committee was appointed to consider the matter, and this committee decided to recommend the enlargement and embellishment of the church building. Subscriptions were taken and so well did the committee succeed in gathering funds that at the next congregational meeting the whole plan was in tangible form and was adopted by the congregation. We need not dwell upon the plan, as it is before our eyes in concrete form. The committee was now appointed a "building committee" by the congregation.



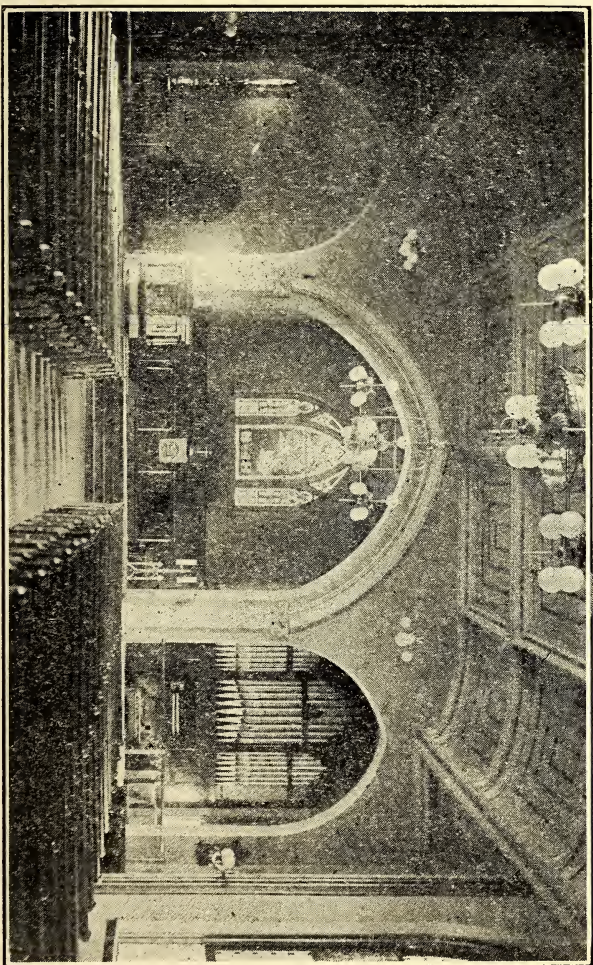
Relaying of the Corner-stone.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The Pastor.

Mr. L. Hanson	President
Mr. H. L. Vollers	Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. H. E. Bonitz	Architect
Mr. J. G. L. Gieschen,	Mr. C. W. Polvogt
Mr. M. G. Tiencken,	Mr. J. H. Rehder.

In imitation of the first building committee these men displayed untiring energy and zeal. Every one of its members engaged most earnestly in the work. Between \$8,000 and \$9,000 was raised in money and memorial gifts, the entire building operations costing over \$12,000. The congregation as a whole displayed the utmost liberality and interest in the work, and, to its credit be it said, that during the year, when the building operations demanded large gifts, the contributions for beneficence exceeded those of any previous year in its history. On September 15th, 1907, the corner-stone was relaid with appropriate ceremony, the pastor and the Rev. C. W. Kegley delivering addresses. So rapidly was the work pushed forward that on Septuagesima Sunday (February 16th, 1908), the congregation was able to occupy the enlarged church. During the period of construction services were held in Luther Memorial Building. The work of Mr. H. E. Bonitz, our architect, whose interest in the work of his church did so much to produce our building, and that



Interior of St. Paul's.

of Mr. J. Schad, the contractor, are more than worthy of honorable mention.

Every one of the societies contributed something to the interior. The Christian Association furnished the electric lighting system, the Dorcas Society the additional pews, the Mengert Circle the opalescent organ chamber window and the Luther League the brass railing. Memorials were placed as follows : The altar and chancel panneling by Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Heyer in memory of Mrs. Heyer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Heyer; Gethsamene window in the chancel, Mrs. H. L. Vollers in memory of her parents, Elizabeth and Luhr Vollers (the silver offering plates and the brass cross having been given by Mrs. E. Vollers in memory of Luhr Vollers in a former pastorate); Good Shepherd window in memory of deceased children by C. W. Polvogt, Mrs. A. M. Schulken, Miss H. Schulken, C. H. Stemmermann, Mrs. H. Vollers, H. F. Otten, J. F. Rulfs, Sr., Mrs. H. Rehder, F. W. Ortmann, E. Schulken, Dr. J. H. Dreher, Dr. W. Niestlie, J. Hintze, H. T. Duls, Mrs. M. G. Tiencken, Mrs. D. Branch and a number of others contributing in a general offering; brass pulpit Bible rest by Mr. and Mrs. M. Rathjen, in memory of their son, Martin Rathjen, Jr. The brass altar desk was the gift of Mrs. J. T. Runge; the pulpit edition of the Book of Worship on it, the gift of

Dr. W. Niestlie, and the curtains for the choir railing, the gift of Mr. J. H. W. Bonitz and family. On the eve of the first service a brass lectern was placed into position by those who wished to surprise their pastor.

We have now arrived at the end of our sketch. There are many names of faithful members of St. Paul's which do not appear in these pages, but who, although not placed on the committees named herein, yet have done noble service for their dear church. St. Paul's, with all that the name implies, stands before us complete. In celebrating the golden jubilee, the fiftieth anniversary of its organization, let us be devoutly thankful to the Triune God for the past and the present. All things are ours. Let us appreciate what we possess, remembering the labors and the struggles of the many members of the past, who have left us the St. Paul's of the present as a glorious heritage.

CHURCH DIRECTORY.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL.

ELDERS :

Pastor W. A. Snyder, President; Mr. L. Hanson, Vice-President;
Dr. W. Niestlie.

DEACONS :

Dr. J. H. Dreher, M. Schnibben, G. H. Haar, C. P. B. Mahler.

TRUSTEES :

M. G. Tiencken, H. L. Vollers, Secretary; J. W. Duls, Treasurer
C. W. Polvogt, J. W. H. Fuchs.

Organist, Mrs. E. Schulken.

USHERS :

C. H. Bornemann, C. Fick, L. Wessell, F. Hutaff, R. Gieschen, W.
Mahler, M. Brunjes, H. Wrede.

SUNDAY SCHOOL :

Superintendent, H. F. Otten; Sec.-Treas., E. Wright; Organist, Miss
A. Hanson; Assistant Organist, Miss F. Wessell;
Librarians, J. Hintze, R. Rose.

TEACHERS :

The Pastor, Miss L. Bappler, Miss E. Ortmann, Miss E. Otten, Mrs.
W. A. Snyder, Mrs. H. H. Merritt, Miss A. Baker, Mr. J. Haar.
Miss E. Hutaff, Mrs. C. B. Rehder, Mrs. J. T. Runge, Miss
M. L. Smith, Miss C. Fick, Miss E. Otersen, Mrs. L.
Freimuth, Mrs. H. F. Otten, Miss W. Ulrich, Miss L.
Banck, Mrs. J. Rehder, Mrs. E. Schulken, Mrs.
W. S. Clayton and Mrs. W. L. Bissinger.

THE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION :

President, A. D. Wessell; Vice-President, F. W. Ortmann; Secretary-
Treasurer, J. D. H. Klander; Trustees, F. W. Ortmann,
M. Schnibben and J. G. Kuhlken.

THE DORCAS SOCIETY :

President, Mrs. W. A. Snyder; Vice-President, Mrs. J. H. Dreher;
Cor. Sec., Mrs L. Freimuth; Rec. Sec., Mrs. H. L. Vol-
lers; Treasurer, Mrs. A. D. Wessell.

THE MENGERT CIRCLE :

President, Miss E. Hutaff; Vice-President, Miss E. Ortmann, Rec.
Secretary, Mrs. C. Rehder; Cor. Secretary, Miss G.
Mohr; Treasurer, Mrs. J. T. Runge.

THE LUTHER LEAGUE :

President, Luther Wessell; Cor. Secretary, Miss H. Fick; Rec. Secre-
tary, Miss L. Banck; Treasurer, J. W. Meyland;
Organist, Miss C. Gieschen.

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